

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 12312 111624Z

46

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 MC-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /030 W

----- 028346

R 111603Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 12312

PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC UK

SUBJECT: HOME OFFICE INQUIRY ON COMPUTERIZED FIREARMS  
CONTROL

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AN INQUIRY FROM HOME OFFICE OF HMG BY LETTER OF AUG. 8, 1975, CONCERNING METHODS USED BY TREASURY'S BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS TO TRACE FIREARMS THROUGH COMPUTER REGISTRATION. QUERY AROSE AS RESULT OF A BRIEF ARTICLE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL FIREARMS TRACING CENTER PUBLISHED IN MARCH 17 ISSUE OF "CRIME CONTROL DIGEST" WHICH CAME TO ATTENTION OF HOME OFFICE OFFICIALS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM HOME OFFICE LETTER: "... THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR FIREARM CERTIFICATES FROM PERSONS RESIDENT IN EACH AREA, AND FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE RELEVANT RECORDS, IS THAT OF EACH CHIEF OFFICER OF POLICE... A FEW POLICE FORCES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING THEIR RECORDS TO COMPUTERS... A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WORK, WHICH I NEED NOT DESCRIBE IN DETAIL, HAS BEEN DONE TO TRY TO ARRIVE AT A STANDARD CODE TO DESCRIBE WEAPONS IN COMPUTER RECORDS BY REFERENCE TO THEIR MAKER, THEIR CALIBER, THEIR METHOD OF OPERATION, THEIR TYPE AND IN PARTICULAR THE MAKER'S NUMBER. ALL OF THESE FACTORS, BUT PARTI-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 12312 111624Z

CULARLY THE LATTER, CAN GIVE RISE TO DIFFICULTY... WE

SHOULD BE MOST INTERESTED TO SEE A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION THAN IS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE OF THE METHODS ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL FIREARMS TRACING CENTER. IN PARTICULAR, WE SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEME ADOPTED FOR CODING DESCRIPTIONS AND IDENTIFYING DETAILS OF FIREARMS..."

3. THE CONCERNED HOME OFFICE OFFICIAL, R. A. HARRINGTON, WHO IS PRINCIPAL (IMMEDIATELY SUBORDINATE TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY), F-4 DEPARTMENT, POLICE AFFAIRS, PROMISES CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION IF NEED BE AND ALSO EXPRESSES AN INTEREST IN MAKING INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN USG. HARRINGTON'S RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE FIREARMS CONTROL AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ARMING OF POLICE, THE LATTER BEING, OF COURSE, A PROBLEM UNIQUE TO UK.

4. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY IF REQUESTED INFORMATION CAN BE SUPPLIED AND, IF SO, THROUGH WHAT CHANNELS.

RICHARDSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LONDON12312  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750276-1182  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750864/aaaacesx.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION TRSE  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HOME OFFICE INQUIRY ON COMPUTERIZED FIREARMS CONTROL  
**TAGS:** ASEC, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006